

**Wright State University Retirees Association  
Minutes of the Board of Directors**

**November 2, 2016**

**Board Members Present:** Abe Bassett, Frieda Bennett, Marlene Bireley, Peggy Bott, Donna Curtin, Mary Gromosiak, Mary Kenton, Gary Pacernick, Judy Rose, Donna Schlagheck, Carol Stevenson, Bob Wagley, Gail Whitaker, Dick Williams & Paul Wolfe.

**Special Guest:** Gerry Petrak

**Administrative Assistant Present:** Elizabeth Katrina (Rei) Molnar.

**Board Members Absent:** Gary Barlow, Sheryl Provens, Jim Sayer, & Ruth Schumacher.

President Kenton called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

BIRELEY MOVED APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER 3, 2016 MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS. SECONDED BY WOLFE. APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

**OFFICERS REPORTS**

**President—Mary Kenton**

- Attendance regrets received from Barlow and Schumacher.
- Received report from University Foundation regarding the next initiative to reach out to Retirees who have not made a gift to Wright State in 2016. In the coming week students will begin making calls to approximately 800 retirees. In 2015, students reached 700 retirees, generating 60 donors and \$6,855.
- Met with Rose to discuss alterations to the Bylaws. Report below.
- Met with University Archivist to discuss future of Historical Preservation. Report below.

**Vice President—Donna Schlagheck—No Report**

**Past President—Richard Williams**

Williams reported on the initial deliberations of the Wright State 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee.

The official start date of the anniversary celebration is October 1, 2017, but a “soft start” is January 1, 2017. Because of financial constraints the celebration will build as much as possible around already scheduled events such as the WSU speakers series, Homecoming, etc.

The committee is talking about a Founders event to involve faculty and staff who were at Wright State in 1964-1967. They may seek WSURA’s help in providing names. Also there may be opportunities to utilize speakers from our Speakers Bureau.

There is uncertainty regarding whether there will be included a farewell event for President Hopkins or the inauguration of the new President.

No formal plan has yet been developed as the committee discusses a range of ideas. There is no word on whether the Anniversary Celebration will include a fund raising drive. The Foundation’s Rise Shine campaign does not end officially until December 31, 2016.

**Secretary—Abe Bassett**

Barlow asked Bassett to report on the October 25 lecture on the book “Maiden Flight,” the story of Katharine Wright, sister of Wilbur and Orville, and Harry Haskell and the love letters she had written. They had known each other as Oberlin undergraduates becoming reacquainted after Haskell’s first wife died of cancer. Katharine’s departure to Kansas City from Dayton to marry Haskell brought a deep rupture to Katharine’s relationship with Orville.

Bassett recommended the reading of David McCullough’s *The Wright Brothers*. Petrak recommended the reading of *The Dayton Flight Factory: The Wright Brothers & the Birth of*

*Aviation*” by Timothy R. Gaffney.

### **Webmaster Report**

The website had 169 hits in September making a total of 1429 for the year.

### **Treasurer—Gail Whitaker**

The Treasurer’s report of October 31 was distributed (and has been posted online). The treasury is in good shape in part because recent expenditures for the newsletter and other items have yet to be posted.

Whitaker reports she has selected a new “all-in-one” computer for the office but has yet to finalize a choice of printer. While on vacation in October, several new members have, through online enrollment, joined the association: They include Denise Robinow, James Guthrie, Linda Baker and Rita Johnson. [Bireley also reported the enrollment of new member Joseph Petrick.]

### **Communications—Frieda Bennett**

Bennett has set a deadline of November 21 for articles for the Extension’s winter issue [#93]. A main feature of the newsletter will be the profiles of the three scholarship awardees.

## **STANDING COMMITTEES**

### **Activities—Mary Gromosiak**

Members are directed to the website for a complete listing of activities from now to the end of the year. Events that are new to the list include:

- November 15 – Tuesday Creative Arts Center tour
- December 1 – Thursday RSVPs due for Feb 14 La Comedia dinner theatre
- December 7 – Wednesday WSURA Board Meeting & Lunch with Scholarship Recipients
- December 11 – Sunday Dining-In Holiday Brunch (11am) / Hosts Bob & Lorraine Wagley
- January 8 – Sunday RSVPs due for Dining Out Brunch (11am) & Tour of New Hangar at AF Museum
- January 15 – Sunday Dining-out Brunch 11:00 am
- January 15 – Sunday Tour of the newest Hangar at the Air Force Museum 3:00 pm
- February 2 – Thursday Philharmonic open rehearsal / Mahler’s fifth symphony TBA
- February 26 – Sunday Women’s basketball vs. Milwaukee – Time TBA
- March 2 & 9 – Thurs. Gary Pacernick – “Finding the poet Within”
- March 16 & 23 – Thurs. Gary Barlow – Basic Ikebana (flower arranging)
- March 2, 9, 16, 23 Bob Wagley: “Writing Your Life, One Story at a Time”
- May 11, Thursday WSURA Third Annual Luncheon

### **Bylaws and Elections—Judy Rose**

Because of a redundancy that occurred with last month’s alteration to the Bylaws, [Section 6, Committees, Paragraph e,] a phrase in paragraph is no longer needed.

ROSE MOVED THE WORDS “and liaison representatives to some university committees” BE STRUCK FROM BYLAWS SECTION 6: COMMITTEES, PARAGRAPH b. SECONDED BY SCHLAGHECK. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

### **Historical Preservation—Gary Barlow, Interim**

Kenton reported in place of Barlow who is absent today.

Kenton, Barlow, Bassett & Williams met with Chris Wydman, University Archivist, to discuss the Oral History project, a function considered being of critical value to the association and to the University. 28 interviews have been conducted since 2001, but none in the past two years. A list of about 10 to 12 potential interviewees was drawn up. Whereas the Archives would like to proceed at about the rate of about four interviews per year, the association would like to proceed at a

significantly quicker pace. This could be possible if the Association paid for student time for transcription services. A near future meeting with Head Archivist Dawn Dewey is to be arranged.

President Kenton appointed former Student Affairs Vice President Dan Abrahamowicz as Chair of the Historical Preservation Committee.

GROMOSIAK MOVED TO APPROVE ABRAHAMOWICZ AS CHAIR OF HISTORICAL PRESERVATION. SECONDED BY ROSE. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

### **Membership—Marlene Bireley**

The Health Fair was a great success with 339 people visiting the WSURA booth, about 100 more than last year. The free snacks were gone by 11:30am. Several people who are about to retire expressed an interest in joining WSURA.

Bireley thanked the Board members and Ri Molnar who all contributed to making the day a success. [Gromosiak, Schumacher & Rose worked in the booth. Kenton solicited a large donation from the Athletic Department. Stevenson procured donations from the WSU Bookstore and Starbucks and put together the raffle basket. Molnar updated the poster.]

Raffle winners were Sarah Schoner, a student in Nursing from Cincinnati and Kevin Dunajski, a File Maker/Developer from the Boonshoft School of Medicine. Both were delighted with their baskets.

The WSURA brochure has been updated with a new president's message, addition of some membership benefits and a reordering of some of the items that were causing confusion. Ri Molnar had several good suggestions for changes based upon the questions she has received from potential members.

Bireley raised the question of printing membership cards. This could be used as identification at the gym and might enhance member awareness of the organization.

BIRELEY MOVED A LARGE COFFEE URN BE PURCHASED FOR OFFICE USE. SECONDED BY GROMOSIAK. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Bireley distributed an extensive description of the three upcoming "Live & Learn Workshops" set for four Thursdays in March 2017. Descriptions of individual workshops will be found on the WSURA website at the March section of Events: <http://www.wright.edu/retirees-association/events-news>

- *Finding the Poet Within* with Gary Pacernick, March 2 & 9
- *Ikebana-The Art of Japanese Flower Arrangement* with Gary Barlow, March 16 & 23
- *My Life, One Story at a Time* with Bob Wagley, March 2, 9, 16, & 23

### **Scholarship Committee—Gary Pacernick – No Report**

### **Sunshine Committee – Peggy Bott**

Recent deceased retirees:

- **Vicki M Shelton**, October 20, 2016, at WSU 18 years
- **Michael Moloney**, October 16, 2016, Casualty Prevention Specialist
- **Brage Golding**, August 24, 2016, WSU's first President

## **LIAISONS**

### **Alumni—Robert Wagley**

Alumni Association will have its first meeting of the year on November 4.

### **International—Ruth Schumacher –Absent (traveling in Brazil)**

Report by Bireley: The University Center for International Education [UCIE] Host Family program, in their words, “fosters friendship, cultural exchange, and hospitality between international students/scholars and American families by encouraging the sharing of meals, holidays, and other activities.”

Schumacher has met with the leadership of the (UCIE) to learn how the organization will operate. One meeting has been held in the current semester but several may be scheduled during the next term. Schumacher had experience with a similar program at Urbana College that met monthly.

The Wagley’s attended the first session and reported that several potential host families failed to honor their positive RSVPs.

**Friends of the Libraries—Gary Barlow—No Report**

Bassett reported on “Maiden Flight” on behalf of Barlow.

**OCHER—Paul Wolfe (with Dick Williams)**

No OCHER meeting this past month.

**Special Report:** Gerry Petrak, WSURA Representative on the Presidential Search Committee.

The Board of Trustees approved the Presidential Profile and the final version is posted on the search website.

[<http://www.wright.edu/presidential-search>] Sourcing of candidates has begun and will run a total of six weeks with December 12 chosen for an executive session to select the first round of interviews.

The Search Committee is now advertising the position of President in a wide variety of online sources. Neutral site interviews are to begin in January 2017. This will be a highly secretive endeavor as it is important to keep the identity of potential candidates unknown to their home institutions, until they are finalists.

**ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING MADE BY BIRELEY. SECONDED BY WOLFE.  
MOTION APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 PM.

**The NEXT REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING:** Wednesday December 7, 10:00 am.

**Meetings take place in the WSURA offices:**

210 University Foundation Building, 3070 Presidential Drive.

Respectfully submitted,  
Abe J Bassett, Secretary  
*November 2, 2016*

*First draft 5:30 p.m. Wednesday,*